

Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A method of managing resources in a distributed network, the method comprising:
 - receiving a query from a client computer system in the distributed network;
 - 5 accessing a plurality of resources in response to the query; and
 - providing management task options related to the query from more than one resource.
2. A method as defined in claim 1 wherein the method further comprises:
 - receiving a request to display an instance of a managed object;
 - displaying attribute information related to the managed object; and
 - displaying task information received from at least two back-end resources
 - 5 in response to the request to display the object information.
3. A method as defined in claim 1 wherein the method further comprises:
 - receiving search information from a first one of the plurality of resources related a managed object type;
 - storing the search information in a search store;
 - 5 receiving search handler information related to object type, the search handler relating to search functions on the resource;
 - in response to the request to display information, determining whether the information is in the search store, and if not retrieving the information from the resource using the search handler; and

displaying the information.

4. A method as defined in claim 3 wherein the search handler relates to a search engine on the resource.

5. A method as defined in claim 3 wherein the search handler relates to search engines on more than one resource.

6. A method as defined in claim 3 wherein the method further comprises:
in response to the request to display object information, retrieving
information stored in the search store; and
displaying additional information from the search store to allow the user to
refine the query.

7. A method as defined in claim 1 wherein the method further comprising:
associating a first search component with a first object type, wherein the
first search component relates to object attributes managed by a first resource; and
associating a second search component with the first object type, wherein
the second search component relates to object attributes managed by a second
resource.

8. A computer program product readable by a computer and encoding
instructions for executing the method recited in claim 1.

9. A computer program product readable by a computer and encoding
instructions for executing the method recited in claim 2.

10. A computer program product readable by a computer and encoding
instructions for executing the method recited in claim 3.

11. A computer program product readable by a computer and encoding

instructions for executing the method recited in claim 7.

12. In a network environment having multiple resources, a computer program product readable by a computer and encoding instructions for executing a method, the method comprising:

receiving a notification that a new resource has been installed on the
5 network environment, the installation process including communication
information with the new resource;

retrieving search information associated with new resource;

storing the search information associated with the new resource; and

sharing the search information with another resource on the network.

13. A computer program product as defined in claim 12 wherein the
notification includes the search information.

14. A computer program product as defined in claim 12 wherein the search
information relates to an object type managed by the new resource, the method further
comprising:

determining whether the search information relates to an existing managed
5 object type;

if so, associating the search information with the existing object type; and

if not, associating the search information with a new object type.

15. A system for query-based management of a plurality of resources
comprising:

a management module in communication with the plurality of resources,
the management module capable of receiving a request to access information

5 related to one or more of the plurality of resources and to receive search
information from the plurality of resources, the request relating to a query; and
in response to the receipt of a query request, the management module
performing search functions on more than one resource to display accessed
information.

16. A system as defined in claim 15, wherein the management module
comprises a search manager to receive and store search information, the search manager
further communicates with the resources to perform the requested searches.

17. A system as defined in claim 19 wherein each of the plurality of resources
provides information to the search manager in XML format.

18. A system as defined in claim 17 wherein one of the resources has a
dedicated search engine for performing searches.